

Oligodon erythrogaster ($\times 2$).

those shields as 7 in the type (not 6), for he records the temporals in the type as two, evidently taking the 6th supralabial for an inferior temporal. In my specimen the 6th supralabial fails to border the lip on the right side (as one sees sometimes in other species of *Oligodon* and *Simotes*) and has a small portion detached on the right side. The temporal, too, I consider single as I do in the type specimen.

The dentition is peculiar. The *maxilla* supports 7 teeth on the left side, and 8 on the right of the usual syncranterian type seen in *Simotes* and *Oligodon*. There is a short edentulous space anteriorly. The palatine has 3 teeth on the left side and 2 on the right situated in the middle. The pterygoid has a single very small tooth near the middle. The mandible has a short edentulous space anteriorly, then 6 subequal teeth on the right side (5 on the left), then an edentulous interval followed by a single tooth.

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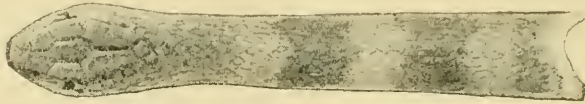
CHITRAL, 19th November 1909.

No. XXVIII.—A VARIETY OF THE COMMON COBRA
(*NAIA TRIPUDIANS*) FROM CHITRAL.

On the 13th October a young cobra was brought in to me presenting characters of so distinctive a nature that I at first thought it claimed recognition as a variety distinct from any previously recorded. The first thing to attract attention is its colouration. Thus it is olive-brown completely

My specimen agrees well with the type which I have examined. The following features deserve special mention. The costals are 17 in the anterior and middle parts of the body, and decrease to 13 posteriorly. The absorption is effected thus—from 17 to 15 the 3rd and 4th rows above the ventrals on the right side, and the 4th and 5th on the left blend, and from 15 to 13 the 4th and 5th coalesce. (In this respect this specimen differs from the type, in which the rows reduce to 15.) The ventrals are 165, anal divided, and subcaudals in 57 pairs. There are 7 supralabials on both sides, and I think Mr. Boulenger would have been more correct if he had counted

banded with darker rings which are broader than the interspaces. The first band is below the neck, and this and the second are black, the third blackish brown, and the succeeding ones progressively lighter in colour, but remain apparent to the vent. On the belly, however, the hinder ones become less apparent, and are lost before the vent. There is no suspicion of any marks on the hood. I can find no differences in the lepidosis of this compared with variety *typica*, except in the scale rows. These, however, are very singular, numbering 19 at a point two heads-lengths behind the head, 19 at midbody, and 15 at a point two heads-lengths before the vent.* The ventrals number 195, and the subcaudals 69. I append a figure.



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No. XXIX.—THE SNAKES OF KASHMIR.

During several visits to Kashmir I only came across four different kinds of snakes; two poisonous and two harmless. Of the latter, one was the ordinary *Dhāman* or Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*). The natives I questioned in the matter, called it simply *sāmp*, *i.e.*, “snake”: it seemed to have no other local name. I saw no very large ones, and they struck me as being of a somewhat darker colour than those I had seen in India. They were fairly common in the main Valley. The other non poisonous snake I have not as yet been able to identify, but as I have a bottled specimen I hope to do so in a short time. I may merely state here that the snake is of slender make, about 18 inches in length and of a general ashy brown colour. I only found it in the Siddar Valley, above Pāhlgūm at an elevation of about 8,000' to 9,000'. My natives could give it no local name.

The two venomous snakes were locally known as the *Pohur* and the *Gūnas* respectively.

The *Pohur* is the common Himalayan viper, *Ancistrodon himalayanus* described by Major Wall, I.M.S., on pages 34 and 35 of his book on the Poisonous Terrestrial Snakes of India, and mentioned by Lawrence on page 55 of his

* This specimen proves to be an exceptional one, for since writing the above I have acquired 9 more, in all of which the scale rows are 21. Further in adult specimens all the bands are brown, and seem to grow less distinct with age. I have also examined two specimens of this variety in our Society's Collection, one from Aden, the other from Parachinar (N. W. Frontier). They constitute a variety of Boulenger's *Cocca*, and the young agree with a specimen figured by Eichwald (Faun Casp-Cauc. Plate XX) under the name *Tommyris aziana*.—F. W.